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May 17, 1966

Mr. Arthur A. Cohen, Vice Pres.
Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc.
383 Madison Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Cohen,

On May 11 I wrote calling certain inaccuracies in your publicity on the Mark Lane book to your attention. This letter is to call further inaccuracies in the current issue of Publishers Weekly to your attention and to ask that you retract them and cease false and damaging claims on behalf of this book. Is there not enough good that you can say for it without using your not inconsiderable facilities to hurt your competitors?

"It is the only completely documented critique of the Warren Commission Report". Aside from whether or not the book is in fact completely documented, it most assuredly is not the only one, as from my letter of May 11 you had reason to know.

"Don't settle for anything less than the definitive book on the subject", in large capital letters, with the September publication date. My book is at least as definitive, and no one has to wait for it. Your inference is clear.

This type of false advertising, especially in the trade press, is both unnecessary and damaging, as is the previous false claim I called to your attention.

Of course, the inference of all this is also false, for Mr. Lane was not first. His book has yet to be published. Mine was published last year. He did not, as I earlier told you, "discover" the FBI report, nor is he the first to use it. Actually, I used it before he had it, from your own claim.

There certainly must be enough good things you can say about Mr. Lane and his book not to require false and damaging assaults upon your competitors. I do hope you will "discover" them, that you will retract the damaging claims you have made that are not true, and that in the future you restrict yourself to those advantages your wealth gives you and allow the competitive books to be judged on their own merits.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg